

*the state of*  
**Black**



2005

Los Angeles



The L.A. Equality Index was prepared by Global Insight, Inc. using the same procedures as in the National Urban League *State of Black America 2005*, but with data for Los Angeles County. The L.A. Equality Index is a compilation of six sub-indices: economics, housing, health, education, criminal justice and civic engagement. The L.A. Equality Index weights are based on a poll of those invited to participate in a Leadership Summit convened to prepare for *The State of Black Los Angeles* report. The Global Insight complete report and all data used in the L.A. Equality Index are available in *The State of Black Los Angeles Full Report*. The Criminal Justice section of this summary and the full report also include results of a special study, “Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice in Los Angeles,” which was prepared for this project by Dr. Michael Stoll of UCLA. Various local and state data sets and research studies were also used in the report.

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# *the state of* **BLACK** Los Angeles

**A***frican Americans have exerted a vital influence on the evolution of Greater Los Angeles since its earliest days. Their faith, culture, achievements and tribulations have helped the region become a worldwide symbol of opportunity that has drawn millions to it with the promise of the American Dream.*

Yet for many Blacks in Los Angeles, this dream is still out of reach. At the heart of this shortfall is a fundamental issue of equality – not simply equality as a right, but equality as a reality and practice.

For some, it is a time of great prosperity, as Los Angeles County is home to many of the most successful, high-profile African Americans in the nation – politicians, business leaders, educators and entertainers. For many others, however, stereotypes and misperceptions, unfair treatment by social institutions and the lack of access to resources that ensure equal participation make it a time of intense hardship, uncertainty and unfulfilled dreams.

Simply pointing out disparities means little without dealing with the underlying causes. For that reason, this report contains an action agenda that provides recommendations for improving conditions. Implemented with conviction and commitment, these can serve as starting points for building equal access to all our community has to offer.

*The State of Black Los Angeles* was produced in partnership by the Los Angeles Urban League and United Way of Greater Los Angeles, based on the National Urban League's annual *State of Black America* report. Though in a much larger sense, this report and its action agenda are the work of the Los Angeles community itself. The Urban League and United Way sought feedback from diverse sectors of the population at every step of the process – surveying groups, convening leadership and working with agents of change on a plan to turn information into action.

While achieving equality becomes more complex in an increasingly diverse society, more is at stake than the fate of a single ethnic group if we fail to find ways of creating more fair and equitable conditions. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observed in his famous *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*: “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” Indeed, the future of our whole community rests in our ability to promote freedom, justice and equality for all who share in it.



“We live in this beautiful mosaic of diversity called Los Angeles. I’m firmly convinced that diversity is a make or break issue for Los Angeles in the future. There are some needs, aspirations and challenges that are unique to a given ethnic group, but there are others that we all share in common.”

**John W. Mack**

*President*

*Los Angeles Urban League*

“Behind every statistic there are people who are struggling to improve their lives and the lives of their families. And the truth is that the challenges faced by African Americans in our community ultimately face us all.”

**Elise Buik**

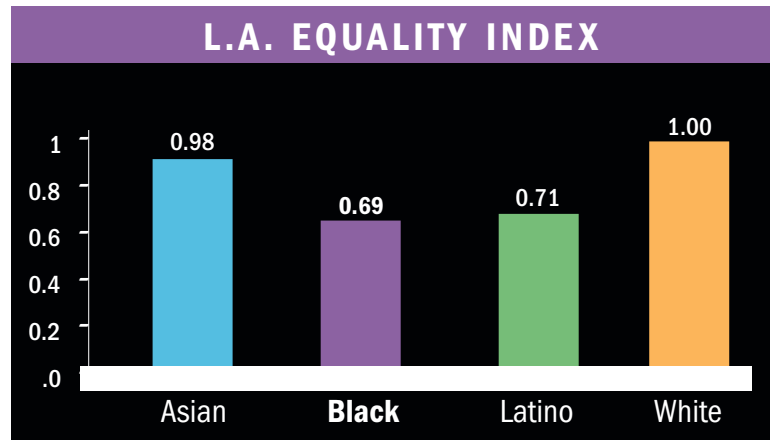
*President and CEO*

*United Way of Greater Los Angeles*





# equality index



## The Index Covers Six Areas:

- Economics
- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Civic Engagement

The L.A. Equality Index provides a sobering picture. The scores in each area indicate how far we have to go, but also clarify the areas that must be addressed in order to eliminate inequality in Los Angeles County.

The L.A. Equality Index provides an objective tool to measure the equality of conditions for ethnic groups in Los Angeles County. Like other familiar indexes, such as the Dow Jones and the Consumer Price Index, the Index summarizes a great deal of data into a single figure that can be used to track changes over time.

The L.A. Equality Index compares conditions of the county's four major racial groups: Blacks, Asians,\* Latinos and Whites. Whites are used as the baseline group in the Index, with a constant score of 1.00. A score of less than 1.00 means that another ethnic group is doing relatively worse than Whites, while a score greater than 1.00 means that the group is better off than Whites in that category. Separate scores in the six areas covered in this report are combined into the total L.A. Equality Index.

## Los Angeles Equality Index Results

Equality Index results demonstrate that overall Blacks fare the worst among Los Angeles County's ethnic groups, with a score of .69 against the benchmark of 1.00. Scores for African Americans in each area of the Equality Index are:

ECONOMIC INDEX	.55
HOUSING INDEX	.69
HEALTH	.68
EDUCATION	.74
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	.70
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	1.07

The national Equality Index score for Black is .73, indicating somewhat better conditions for African Americans nationwide compared to Los Angeles.

\* It is important to recognize that overall statistics for "Asians" mask much lower socioeconomic measures for some Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups. Complete data for all Asian and Pacific Islander groups is found in *The State of Black Los Angeles Full Report*.

# a ladder of hope

*t*he overall well being of any community is determined by a number of interrelated factors. Although *The State of Black Los Angeles* separates the categories of economics, housing, health, education, criminal justice and civic engagement to calculate the L.A. Equality Index, every one of these areas is inextricably linked to the others.

Improvements in each area can create a ladder of hope that empowers those most in need to climb and achieve their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families. On the other hand, neglecting the problems in even one of these areas can weaken or dismantle the steps on that ladder, limiting the progress of too many of our citizens.

The fact that these issues are so tightly interwoven is also cause for hope. A meaningful reduction in school dropouts can translate into more rewarding career options and decrease the number who fall into a criminal lifestyle. A more physically fit generation of children can mean lower health costs and better lifetime health.

Just as each critical area measured by the Equality Index depends on the others, the overall health of the Southern California region relies on the health and welfare of its residents. A literate and skilled workforce is key to the long-term strength of the Los Angeles economy. Our success as individuals in this community will be based on Los Angeles becoming a place where every segment of our diverse society not only survives, but also thrives.

## RUNGS ON THE LADDER

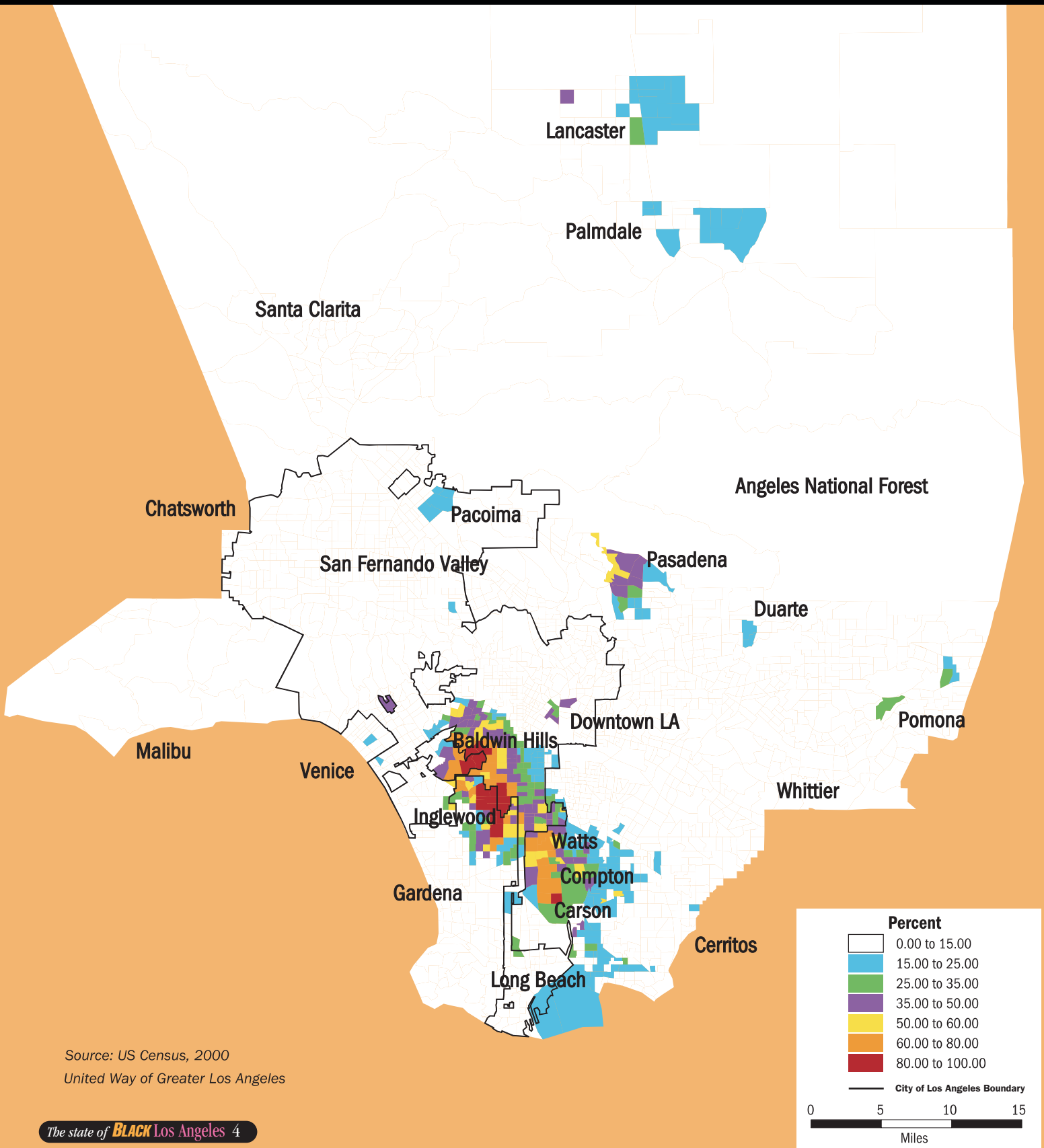
- Education that builds 21st century skills can lead to more rewarding career options and provide the labor force for sustained economic growth.
- Affordable housing allows families to build savings, develop assets and put down roots, creating more stable communities.
- Development of living-wage jobs helps families be self-sufficient, provides a stronger consumer market and the tax base to make public services available.
- An environment promoting healthful behaviors can reduce risk factors for chronic illness, promote longer living and minimize public health costs.
- Equal treatment by the criminal justice system builds confidence in law enforcement, minimizes community tension and engages residents in making neighborhoods safer.
- Strong civic engagement ensures government represents the will of those it serves and allows residents to work together to better their community.



**“Seventy-plus percent of what influences your lifespan along with cancer, stroke and heart disease rates are social factors such as poverty, unemployment, housing and the type of neighborhood you live in.”**

**Dr. Robert K. Ross**  
*The California Endowment*

# BLACK population Los Angeles County 2000



# history of **BLACK** Los Angeles

**1781** — At least 26 of Los Angeles' 44 original settlers are of African descent.

**1851** — Biddy Mason arrives in California as a slave, petitions the court and gains her freedom. She successfully invests in real estate, establishes the First AME Church and provides charity.

**1903** — The Forum, a group of men from Black churches, meets weekly from 1903 to 1942 to discuss social issues and support community causes, including scholarships.

**1921** — The Los Angeles Urban League is established and begins working to remedy inequalities in jobs, health services and housing for Blacks and other minorities.

**1925** — The Black-owned Golden State Guarantee Fund Insurance Co. is established to provide life insurance coverage for African Americans denied insurance by White-owned firms.

**1930s** — Nearly half of Black Los Angeles is unemployed as companies go bankrupt during the Great Depression. Some businesses fire Black workers so they can employ out-of-work Whites.

**1940s** — Los Angeles becomes a locus of wartime defense plants, attracting thousands of Black women and men from throughout the country for defense industry jobs.

**1953** — NAACP presses for equality in hiring, transfers and promotions in the Los Angeles Fire Department. In 1956 all fire stations are finally integrated.

**1964** — The American Civil Liberties Union files a suit against the Los Angeles City Board of Education regarding de facto school segregation.

**1965** — The Watts Rebellion erupts for six days in August, resulting in widespread damage, 34 deaths, hundreds injured and thousands of arrests. The McCone Commission identifies unemployment and inferior schools, housing and medical facilities as causes.

**1971** — In *Serrano v. Priest*, the state supreme court rules property-tax-based school financing systems a violation of equal protection. However, the passing of Proposition 13 in 1978 undermines efforts to equalize school funding.

**1972** — The doors to Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital (now King/Drew Medical Center) open.

**1973** — Tom Bradley is elected mayor of Los Angeles, the first African American mayor of a major U.S. city. He will serve five terms, retiring in 1993.

**1980** — California African American Museum opens in Exposition Park.

**1992** — Civil unrest resulting in 55 deaths, 2,300 injured, 623 fires and \$785 million in damages follows the acquittal of White police officers charged in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

**1994** — Former basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson launches a string of business ventures that provide jobs and reinvigorate urban communities.

**2004** — The beating of Stanley Miller, shooting of Devon Brown and other incidents involving excessive force by police generate tensions within the Black community.





# demographic trends

■ African Americans are about 10% of Los Angeles County's population, smallest of the four major race/ethnic groups. Latinos are 45%, Whites 31% and Asians 12%, with persons reporting two or more races 2% and other groups representing less than 1% of the population.

■ Los Angeles County reported 916,907 Black residents in 2000, the seventh-largest Black population among U.S. metropolitan areas, although Blacks are just 9.6% of the population.\*

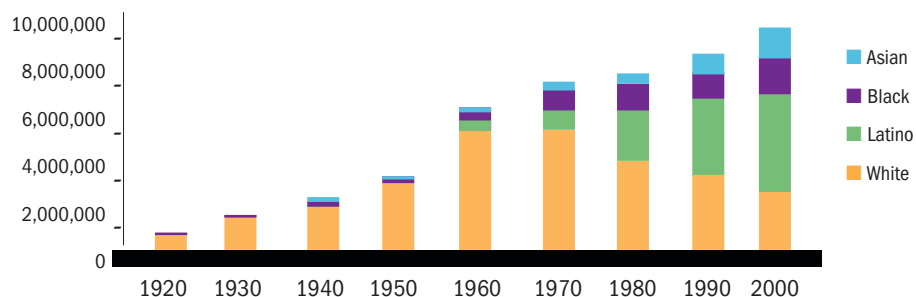
## TOP TEN U.S. METROS IN BLACK POPULATION, 2000

METRO	BLACK POPULATION	PERCENT BLACK
1 New York	2,277,210	24.45%
2 Chicago	1,551,203	18.75%
3 Washington, DC	1,276,095	25.92%
4 Atlanta	1,184,059	28.79%
5 Philadelphia	1,017,761	19.95%
6 Detroit	1,013,226	22.81%
7 Los Angeles	916,907	9.63%
8 Houston	728,824	17.45%
9 Baltimore	694,779	27.21%
10 Dallas	525,748	14.94%

Throughout the region's history, Blacks have been a vibrant thread in the cultural tapestry of Los Angeles County. Today, Los Angeles is one of the nation's largest Black metropolitan areas.

■ The African American population rose from 19,000, or 2% of the county residents, in 1920 to a peak of 926,000, or 12%, by 1980. With rising immigration after 1980, the Black share of the population declined to 11% in 1990 and to 10% in 2000. The Black population is projected to be 9% by 2010.

## POPULATION GROWTH



\* "Black" and "African American" are used interchangeably throughout this report. "Asian" includes Asians and Pacific Islanders. Most data cited is for non-Hispanic Blacks, Asians and Whites. Latinos include all races who are Hispanic. For consistency, this report uses population data from the 2000 census.



■ African American births fell from 22,000 in 1990 to 11,000 in 2003 due to a decline in population and a trend toward lower birthrates.

■ 29% of Blacks are under 18, compared to 18% of Whites, 38% of Asians and 36% of Latinos. 10% of Blacks are 65 and older, as are 17% of Whites, 11% of Asians and 4% of Latinos. Median age for Blacks rose from 29.8 in 1990 to 32.7 in 2000.

### Black Diversity

■ Diversity within the Black population includes 46,000 Latinos who are Black—which includes 29,485 Hispanic Blacks of one race and 16,258 multiracial Black/Latinos—43,000 African immigrants and 12,600 from predominantly Black West Indian nations.

■ 57,000 county residents reported Black as part of a multiracial ancestry. Black and White was the largest multiracial combination, followed by Black and Latino.

■ At 94%, Blacks have the highest rate of American-born population of any race/ethnic group. Some 85% of Whites, 68% of Asians and 49% of Latinos are American born. With nearly universal citizenship and English fluency, African Americans can be termed the most "American" of all race/ethnic groups.

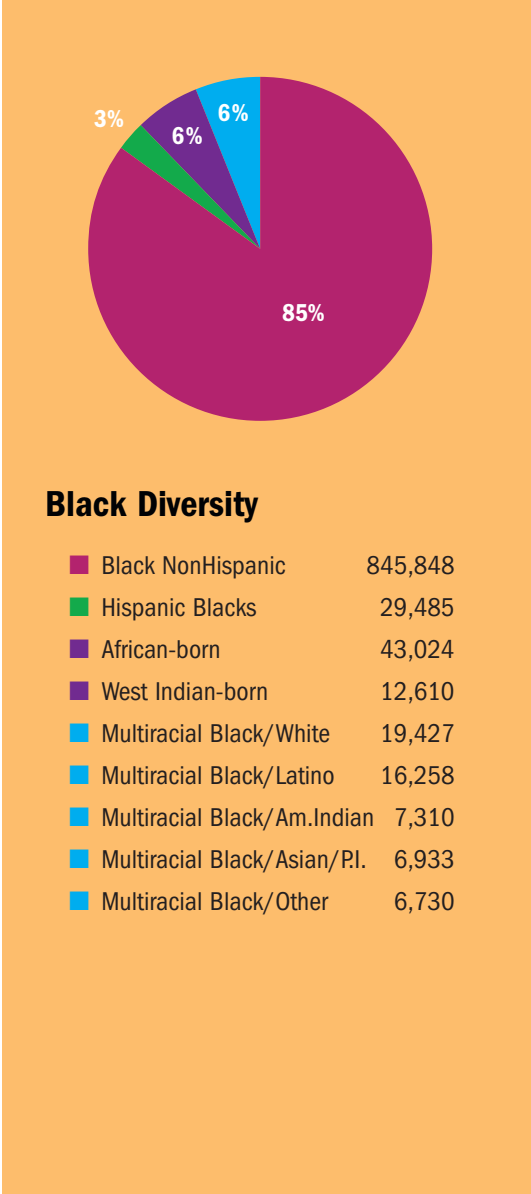
African American Communities in Los Angeles County			
Rank	Ten Largest Black Communities	Black Population	Percent of Total
1	Los Angeles (City)	401,986	10.9%
2	Long Beach	66,836	14.5%
3	Inglewood	52,260	46.4%
4	Compton	37,263	39.3%
5	Hawthorne	27,208	32.3%
6	Carson	22,485	25.1%
7	Pasadena	18,711	14.0%
8	Lancaster	18,548	15.6%
9	Westmont (Athens-unincorporated)	18,095	57.2%
10	Palmdale	16,447	14.1%

■ 45% of the county’s African American population lives in the City of Los Angeles, followed by Long Beach, Inglewood and Compton.

### Racial Clusters

■ The City of Los Angeles has the second highest "segregation rate" of all California cities in terms of compact racial clusters. The city’s Black-White segregation score is .74, meaning that 74% of African Americans would have to move in order to achieve a full integration with Whites.

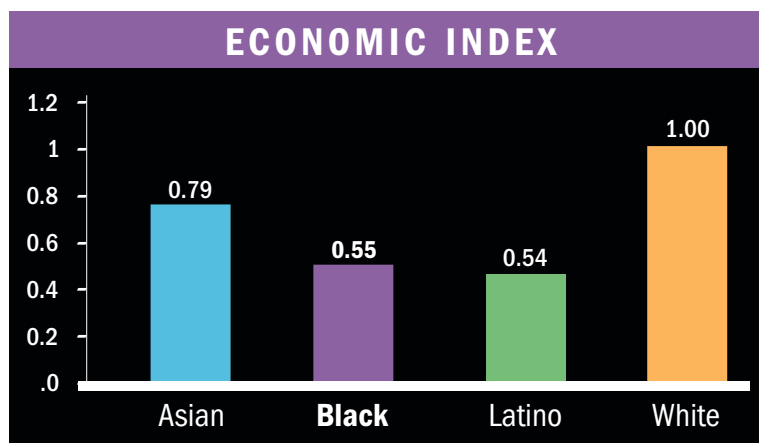
■ Black-White segregation in Los Angeles County declined slightly from 1990 to 2000, but Latino and Asian populations became somewhat more segregated as immigration swelled in ethnic enclaves that are a haven for newcomers.





# economic index

*For many Los Angeles County Blacks, lower wages and economic disparities continue to undermine the promise of the American Dream.*



The national Economic Index score for Blacks is .57, slightly higher than in Los Angeles.

## The Economic Index Includes:

- Median Income
- Employment
- Poverty
- Business Ownership

**"It's not about 'left' and 'right'.  
It's about top and bottom."**

**Miguel Contreras**

Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

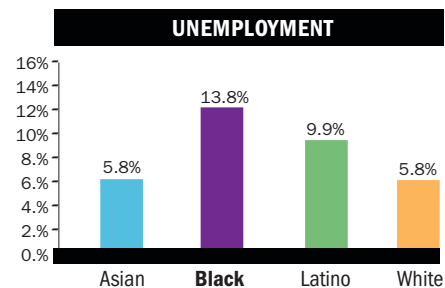
Blacks have the lowest median household income at \$31,905, compared to the median for Latinos at \$33,820, Asians at \$47,631 and Whites at \$53,978.

At nearly 14%, unemployment for African Americans is more than double the rate for Whites and Asians, with Latinos between the two – a longstanding pattern in Los Angeles.

## Business Ownership

More than 38,000 Black-owned businesses operate in Los Angeles County, but most are very small: About 10% of Black and Latino-owned businesses have paid employees, compared to 26% of White and 33% of Asian businesses.

The African American business ownership rate of 3.96 is one-quarter of the 15.94 level for Whites, somewhat higher than 3.10 for Latinos and less than the Asian rate of 9.74.





## Income distribution

■ More than half of Black households have incomes of less than \$35,000 and fewer than 10% earn more than \$100,000. While Latinos share rates similar to Blacks, 17% of Asians and 23% of Whites have incomes over \$100,000.

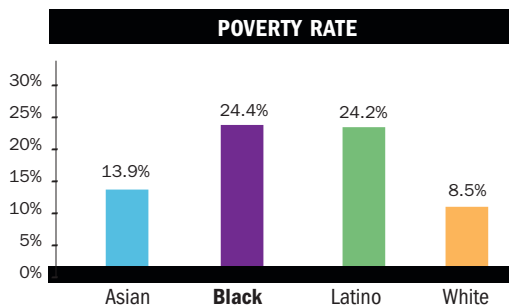
■ Los Angeles has more high-income Black households than the national average. 8.1% of Blacks in Los Angeles have incomes of \$100,000 or more, compared to 5.8% nationwide.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION	ASIAN	BLACK	LATINO	WHITE
Under \$20,000	22%	34%	27%	18%
\$20,000-34,999	16%	20%	24%	15%
\$40,000-49,000	14%	15%	17%	14%
\$50,000-99,000	31%	24%	24%	31%
\$100,000-199,000	14%	7%	6%	17%
\$200,000 or more	3%	1%	1%	6%

## Poverty

■ Blacks and Latinos share the same poverty rate at 24% – three times as high as the poverty rate of Whites and nearly twice as high as that of Asians.

■ The poverty rate for Black children is 33%, compared to 30% for Latinos, 16% for Asians and just 9% for White children. 16% of Black elderly are below the poverty level, more than double the 7.1% rate for Whites. Latino and Asian senior poverty rates are similar to Blacks.



## Employment

■ Some 59% of working-age Blacks, Asians and Latinos are in the labor force, compared with 64% of Whites.

■ Black men have fared worse in employment than Black women, as indicated by the male unemployment rate of 16% and female unemployment rate of 12%.

## Public Assistance

■ A high public assistance rate of 13% for the African American population helps account for low median income. In comparison, 5% of Latinos, 2% of Asians and 2% of Whites receive aid.

## Making a Difference

In the wake of the 1992 civil unrest, the Los Angeles Urban League and Toyota partnered in establishing the Automotive Training Center to provide no-cost job training and placement in the automotive service industry. Today, the nationally celebrated program has graduated more than 1,400 students with state-of-the-art technical training, and placement services help graduates achieve long-term employment in automotive service, repair and maintenance.





# housing index

*The current Los Angeles County housing market is stripping inner-city communities of financial resources and leadership as many middle-class Blacks leave in search of affordable homes and safer neighborhoods.*

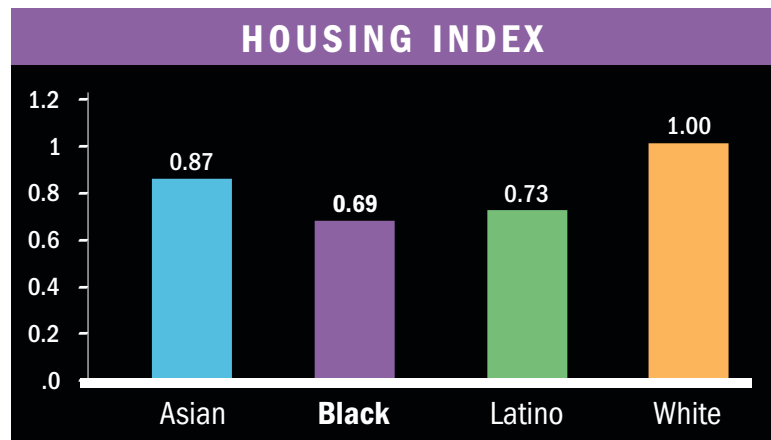
## The Housing Index Includes:

- Ownership
- Affordability
- Crowding
- Living Situations

**“Los Angeles has the most affluent African American neighborhood in the county, View Park. But it also has, within a mile, one of the poorest African American neighborhoods, Baldwin Village. You could not find a house in Inglewood that is less than \$300,000.”**

**Lula Ballton**

West Angeles Community  
Development Corporation



The national Equality Index does not have a separate index score for housing.

## Residential Segregation in Los Angeles

■ In the post-World War I era, racial restrictions on housing prohibited non-White ownership, confining Blacks to “Eastside” communities along Central Avenue and to the south. In a breakthrough case in 1946, restrictive covenants were ruled unenforceable. From the 1950s on, middle-class Blacks moved into West Adams and other “Westside” areas, and the “Eastside” became an almost exclusively low-income Black area.

## Home Ownership

■ 38% to 39% of Black and Latino households own their homes, somewhat lower than Asians at 45% and Whites at 57%. However, upper-income Black communities in Los Angeles County have home ownership rates of 54% to 67%.

## Housing Costs

■ On average, African American homeowners pay 26% of their incomes for mortgage costs, nearly the same as Latinos and slightly more than Asians or Whites. More than half (52%) of Blacks pay 30% or more of their income for rent, higher than Whites at 47%, Asians at 45% or Latinos at 43%.

### Crowded Housing

■ 13% of Black households live in crowded units (more than one person per room), compared to 50% of Latinos, 27% of Asian and 5% of White households.

### Family Living Situations

■ Family size for African Americans is 3.27 persons, compared to 3.57 for Asians, 4.31 for Latinos and 2.94 for Whites.

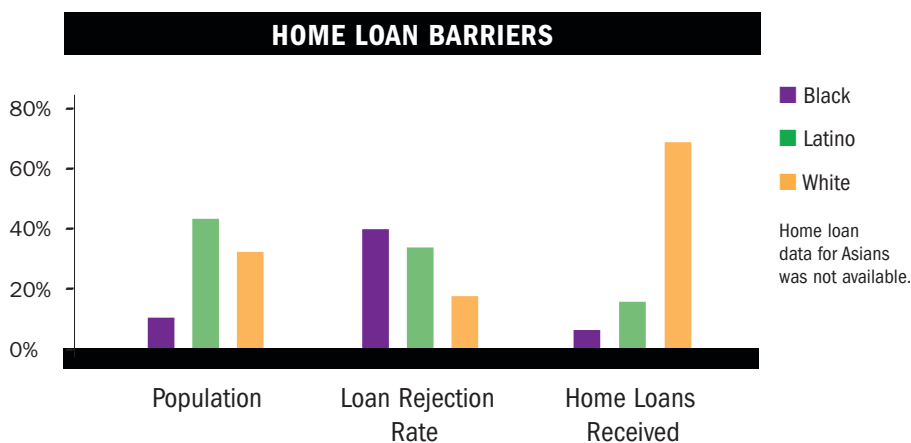
■ Only 30% of Black children live in married-couple families, compared to 61% of Latinos, 77% of Asians and 73% of Whites.

■ 42% of African American children live in mother-only households, and 13% live with a grandparent.

### Access to Home Loans

■ Blacks receive only 5% of all home loans issued in the county – half as many as their share of the population. Whites are 31% of the total population but receive 72% of all home loans.

■ 32% of loan applications for Blacks are rejected, and Blacks in particular receive a much higher proportion of more costly sub-prime loans for purchase and refinancing. 25% of Latino loan applications are rejected.



### Homelessness

■ African Americans are greatly over-represented among the homeless. Most studies estimate African Americans as 30% or more of the homeless in L.A. County.

■ Homeless families with children include 44% African Americans, 37% Latinos, 2% Asians and 14% Whites, based on applications for homeless public assistance.



### Making a Difference

Since 1987, Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles (CCSCLA) has been developing affordable housing that is considered a "model for the country." CCSCLA combines low-cost housing with social programs that help the poor improve their economic conditions. The Roberta Stephens Villas offer an after-school nanny program, college students who serve as mentors, job referral assistance and a recycling program where youth put half of the redemption value they collect into a college savings account.

# equality index metrics

## ECONOMIC INDEX

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Median Household Income 2000	47,631	31,905	33,820	53,978
Median Family Income	54,108	37,190	33,363	69,396
Per Capita Income 2000	20,595	17,341	11,100	35,785
Household Income <\$35,000	37.9	53.3	51.5	32.4
Household Income >\$100,000	17.1	8.1	6.8	22.8
Unemployment Rate	5.8	13.8	9.9	5.8
Adults in Labor Force	59.1	58.8	58.7	63.6
Adults Not in Labor Force	44.3	49.3	47.2	40.1
Persons Below Poverty Level	13.9%	24.4%	24.2%	8.5%
Owned Businesses	114,462	38,277	36,678	489,284
Businesses With Paid Employees	37,596	3,359	16,757	127,345
<b>Economics Weighted Index</b>	<b>.79</b>	<b>.55</b>	<b>.54</b>	<b>1.00</b>

## HOUSING INDEX

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Homeowners	45%	38%	39%	57%
Renters	55%	62%	61%	43%
Moderate/Severe Repair Problems	9%	10%	14%	9%
Household Below Poverty Level	17%	28%	24%	11%
Percent of Income Spent on Rent	28%	31%	29%	27%
Rent More Than 30% of Income	45%	52%	43%	47%
Percent Spent on Mortgage	24%	26%	27%	21%
Average Family Size	3.57	3.27	4.31	2.94
Crowded Housing	27%	13%	50%	5%
Children Living w/Married Couple	76.7%	29.8%	60.9%	73.1%
Children Living w/Mother Only	10.2%	41.9%	16.6%	13.5%
Children Living w/ Father Only	2.8%	5.7%	6.1%	4.9%
Children Living w/Grandparents	5.0%	13.1%	7.8%	5.2%
<b>Housing Weighted Index</b>	<b>.87</b>	<b>.69</b>	<b>.73</b>	<b>1.00</b>

## HEALTH INDEX

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Life Expectancy at Birth	83.7	71.7	82.5	77.3
Death Rate – All Causes	445	979	540	700
Adolescent Mortality Rate	58.2	131.4	77.9	61.7
Homicide Rate – Males	5.5	78.0	18.7	6.6
Birth Rate – Married Women	52.8	50.4	87.8	45.5
Birth Rate – Unmarried Women	6.3	33.6	40.6	7.6
Infant Deaths	4.0	13.0	5.0	5.0
Overweight Boys	16%	18%	29%	16%
Overweight Girls	7%	20%	21%	10%
Physical Fitness (aver gr. 5,7,9)	83.4%	63.2%	61.4%	68.0%
Obese Adults	6%	31%	24%	16%
Good Health	86%	80%	69%	86%
<b>Weighted Health Index</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>.68</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>1.00</b>



### EDUCATION INDEX

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
3- to 4-Year-Olds in Preschool	63%	63%	42%	74%
4th Grade Reading Proficiency	69%	26%	25%	61%
4th Grade Math Proficiency	81%	28%	36%	65%
8th Grade Reading Proficiency	59%	17%	17%	51%
8th Grade Math Proficiency	65%	10%	12%	39%
11th Grade Reading Proficiency	53%	17%	18%	48%
11th Grade Math Proficiency	60%	12%	14%	45%
9th Graders Finish High in 4 Years	87%	56%	44%	77%
UC – CSU Graduated in 6 Years	88%	73%	78%	87%
HS Exit Exam Passed – Overall	70%	28%	30%	65%
SAT Average Score	1069	829	864	1070
HS Graduates With A-G Courses	61.8%	31.9%	29.8%	43.4%
College Freshmen With A-G Courses	57%	25%	16%	40%
Adults – Less Than 9th Grade	10.3	4.6	35.5	3.1
Adults – 9th-12th, No Diploma	7.5	16.0	22.4	7.4
Age 25+ Ever Attended College	58.6	47.2	20.4	62.6
Age 25+ With AA degree	8.2	8.6	3.6	7.4
Age 25+ With Bachelor's Degree	30.2	11.9	4.5	23.1
Age 25+ With Graduate Degree	12.1	6.0	2.3	14.6
<b>Education Weighted Index</b>	<b>.93</b>	<b>.74</b>	<b>.63</b>	<b>1.00</b>

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE INDEX

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Stopped While Driving	10.1	19.8	11.2	12.6
Average Jail Sentence – Violent Offenses	35	46	39	13
Average Jail Sentence – Nonviolent Offenses	5	22	16	18
Average Months of Probation	42	49	43	36
Felony Arrests – Percent of Population	.0046%	3.66%	1.36%	.0080%
Juvenile Felony Arrests – Percent of Population <18	n.a.	4.57%	2.01%	1.72%
Hate Crimes – Percent of Population	2.3	20.3	1.2	1.3
<b>Criminal Justice Weighted Index</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>.70</b>	<b>.80</b>	<b>1.00</b>

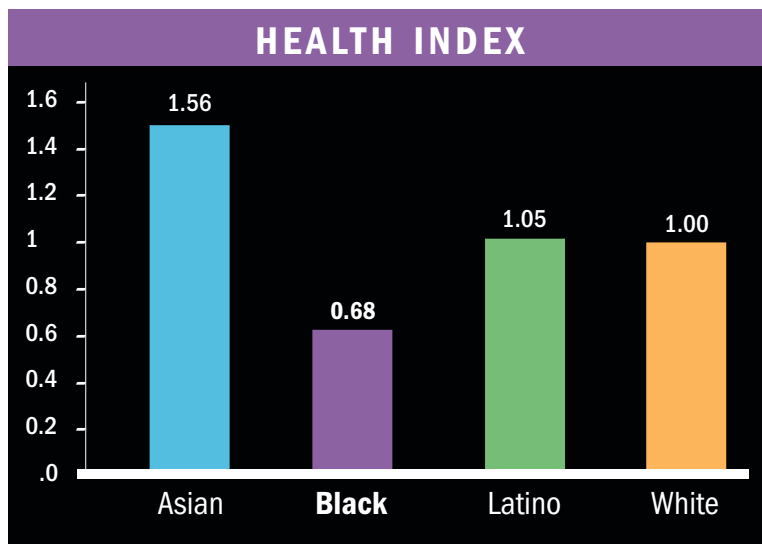
### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INDEX

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Registered Voters – Percent of Eligible	29%	69%	30%	55%
Voter Turnout – Percent of Registered	36%	40%	40%	51%
Voter Percent of Total Population	10%	28%	12%	33%
Union Members – Percent of Labor Force	13.1%	28.7%	20.3%	18.5%
Not Fluent in English	43%	3%	48%	7%
Armed Services – Percent of Population	.0005	.0010	.0004	.0008
<b>Civic Engagement Index</b>	<b>.51</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>.57</b>	<b>1.00</b>



# health index

*Healthy communities are built on more than access to quality medical care: Healthy behaviors, access to nutritious foods and exercise are all part of living a longer, healthier life.*



Nationally, the Health Index score for Blacks is .76, substantially better than Los Angeles.

## The Health Index Includes:

- Life Expectancy
- Birth Outcomes
- Children's Health
- Adult Physical Condition

**“One in every three Black babies born today is destined to become a diabetic. To reverse the trend, we must transform neighborhoods into places where our children have safe places to play and exercise and have access to more than just fast food.”**

**Dr. Robert K. Ross**  
The California Endowment

## Death Rates from Leading Causes of Death

Cause	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Heart Disease	135.2	316.3	163.5	222.6
Cancer	117.2	215.3	118.0	172.2
Stroke	40.7	69.6	37.9	44.3
Emphysema	16.4	38.7	16.0	39.7
Pneumonia & Influenza	21.3	31.5	22.4	28.2
Accidents	12.3	34.4	20.4	27.6
Diabetes	17.9	43.7	34.7	18.1
Liver & Cirrhosis	3.1	11.2	18.9	11.3
Homicide – Males	5.5	78.0	18.7	6.6
Suicide	6.1	7.8	4.3	11.5
Alzheimer's	2.3	11.5	5.8	12.6
HIV/AIDS	1.0	15.8	5.0	4.5
Premature Death Rate	3.8	40.6	11	4.5
Teen Mortality Rate, Age 13-19	58.2	131.4	77.9	61.7

Deaths per 100,000 Population

## Death Rates (Per 100,000)

■ Blacks have the highest overall death rate at 979, followed by Whites at 700, Latinos at 540 and Asians at 445. Male death rates are much higher than females in all groups.

■ Most striking are African American death rates from homicide and HIV/AIDS, which are more than three times higher than other groups.

■ Premature deaths rob African Americans of many years of life: Their rate of 40.6 far outstrips that of Latinos at 11.0, Whites at 4.5 and Asians at 3.8. The teen death rate is much higher for Blacks due to high homicide rates, often gang-related.

## Obesity and Fitness

■ Child and adult obesity is highest for Blacks and Latinos, which corresponds to higher diabetes rates.

■ Black and Latino children have lower fitness scores, which decline between 5th and 9th grades.

## Health Insurance

■ Health insurance coverage is high for children of all groups, ranging from 94% for Blacks to 89% for Latinos. Even so, 17,000 Black and 152,000 Latino children were uninsured in 2003. Adult coverage rates are lower at 83% for Blacks, 82% for Asians and 62% for Latino adults, leaving a total of 1.1 million residents with no health insurance.

## Immunization

■ Only 61% of African American children are fully immunized by age two, despite a high rate of health care coverage. By comparison, 74% of Latino, 77% of Asian and 74% of White children are immunized.

■ Among the elderly, immunization to protect against influenza is lowest for African Americans at 42%, with higher rates for Asians at 83%, Whites, 72% and Latinos, 68%.

## Chronic Conditions: Asthma, Diabetes, Hypertension

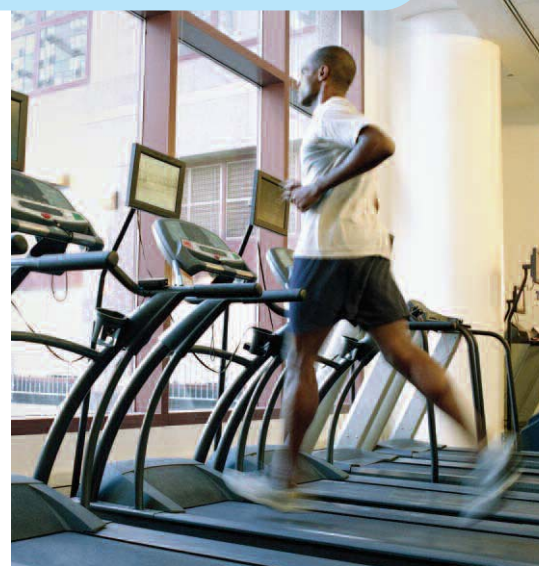
■ Diabetes deaths increased 53% in the county from 1990 to 2000. 9% of African American adults and 8% of Latinos have been diagnosed with diabetes, followed by 7% for Whites and 5% for Asians. Medical care for diabetes costs more than twice as much as care for other diseases, a major threat for public health care costs.

■ Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a major risk factor for heart attacks and stroke. 28% of Black adults have hypertension, higher than Whites at 22%, Latinos and Asians at 15%.

■ Asthma affects more African American children (16%) and adults (10%), with rates about twice as high as the county average of 8%.

## Health Behavior Measures from L.A. County Health Survey

Adults	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Exercise				
Meet exercise guidelines	39%	43%	49%	50%
Nutrition				
Eat 5+ fruits/vegetables per day	11%	11%	9%	16%
Smokers — Men	23%	21%	20%	19%
— Women	7%	19%	7%	16%
Binge Drinking — Male	27%	33%	49%	32%
No regular source of care	22%	10%	27%	12%
Teens				
14-17 who drink alcohol	18%	31%	44%	46%



## Making a Difference

The only non-profit community health clinic located in Southwest Los Angeles, T.H.E. Clinic offers a full range of medical care and health education for uninsured and low-income residents. Primary care services include preventive and urgent care, confidential HIV testing and care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma. To address the rise in prostate cancer and high blood pressure among men, T.H.E. Clinic conducts outreach screenings and provides links to sources of care.





# education index

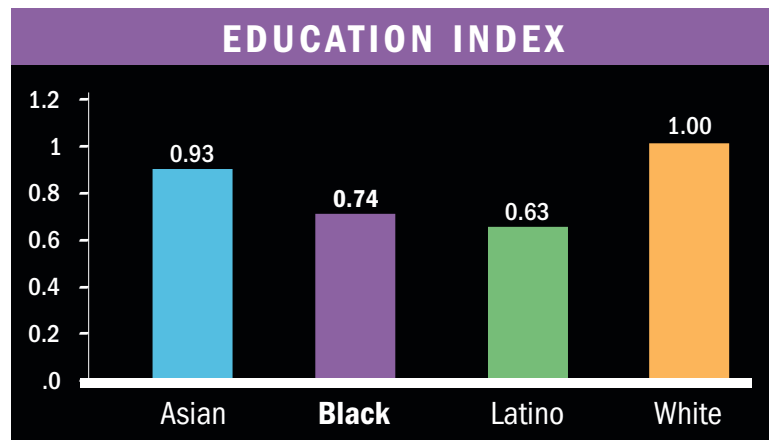
*To meet the demands of a worldwide, technology-driven economy, successful education models must prepare all students for the 21st century workforce.*

## The Education Index Includes:

- Course Quality
- Adult Education
- School Achievement Scores
- Enrollment/Dropouts

**“The need for educated and skilled workers is greater than ever. New jobs will increasingly require a more educated workforce. Even traditional jobs will require workers with a broader, deeper and more flexible portfolio of skills.”**

**From: 21st Century Skills for 21st Century Jobs**



The national Education Index for Blacks is .77, somewhat higher than the Los Angeles score.

## Preschool Education

■ Black 3- and 4-year-olds get a good start with 63% attending preschool, about the same rate as Asians and Whites, and much higher than the rate of 42% for Latinos.

## Adult Education

■ Among adults 25 and older, 47% of Blacks have attended college, compared to 20% of Latinos, 59% of Asians and 63% of Whites.

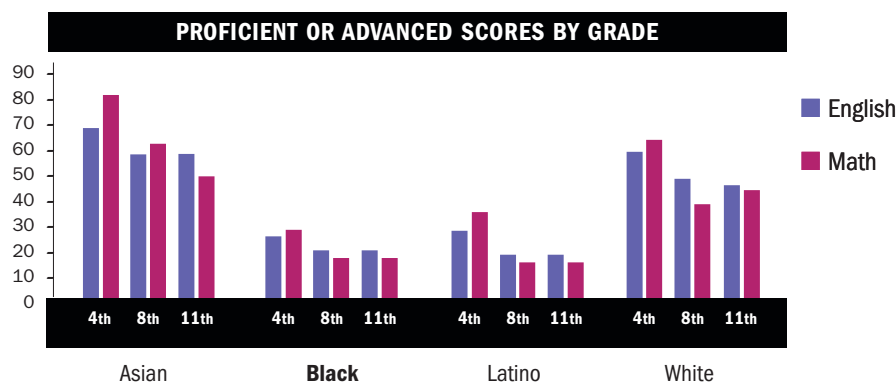
■ However, there is a much lower rate of completing a bachelor's or higher degree: 18% of Blacks have a degree, compared to 42% of Asians and 38% of Whites and 7% of Latinos.

■ African American college graduates in Los Angeles County include 66,829 with bachelor's degrees and 33,620 with graduate or professional degrees. In the high-income Black neighborhoods in Los Angeles, about 50% are college graduates, compared with a county average of 18% for Black adults.

## School Test Scores

■ African American students had the lowest proficiency scores in 2004: Reading at a proficient or advanced level declined from 26% in 4th grade to 17% in 11th grade. Math proficiency declined from 28% in 4th grade to 12% in 11th grade.

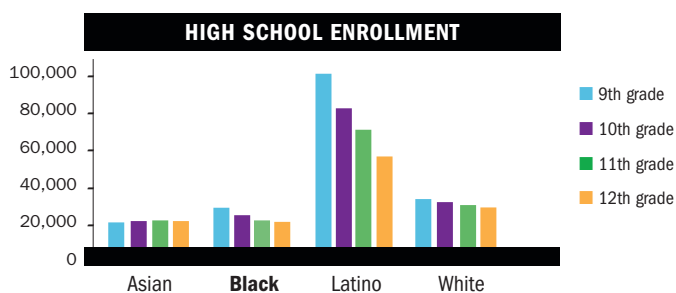
■ The overall California High School Exit Exam passing rate in 2002 was 28% for Blacks, 30% for Latinos, 65% for Whites and 70% for Asians, suggesting many Black and Latino students may not get their diplomas when the exam becomes a graduation requirement starting with the class of 2006.



## Graduation Rates

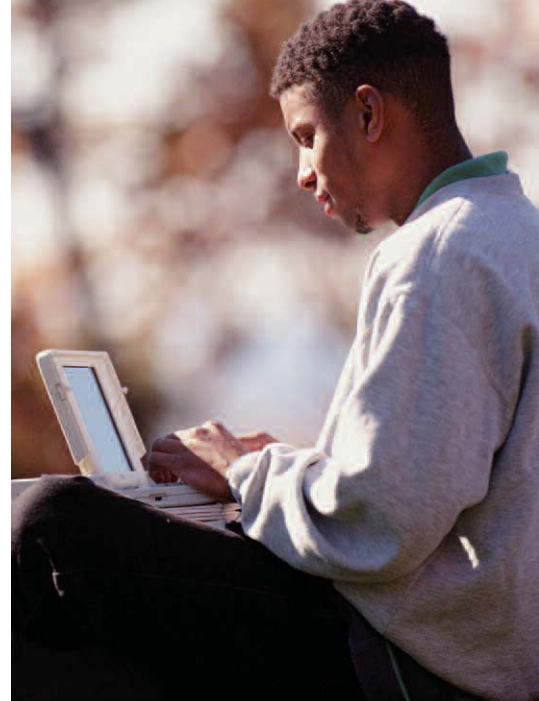
■ 56% of African American students and 44% of Latinos graduate with their class in four years. 77% of Whites and 87% of Asian students graduate with their class.

■ 2004-05 enrollment levels for each ethnic group show that Latinos have the sharpest decline from 9th to 12th grade, followed by Blacks and Whites. Asian enrollment is much more consistent throughout the high school years.



■ College preparation rates also show wide disparities. 32% of Black and 28% of Latino high school graduates took college-prep courses, compared to 43% of Whites and 62% of Asians.

■ About 75% of Black and Latino college freshmen at Los Angeles County UC and CSU campuses graduate within six years, compared with nearly 90% of White and Asian students.



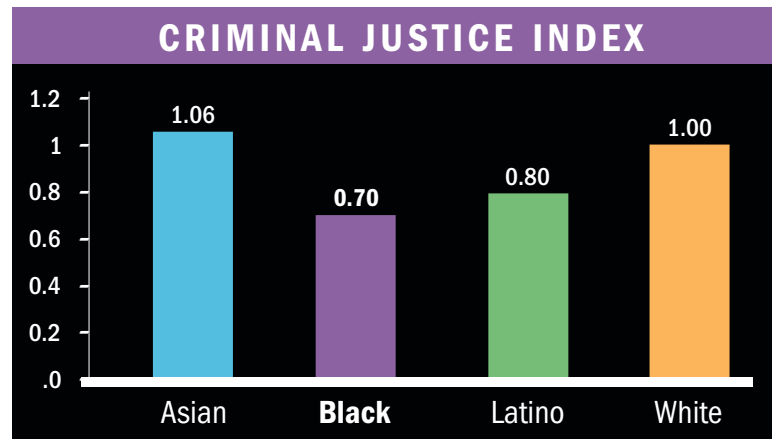
## Making a Difference

Located in South Los Angeles, the King/Drew Medical Magnet High School consistently has more African American graduates admitted to UCLA than any other high school. Part of this success can be attributed to the school's requirement of college-prep coursework for all its students – curriculum that exceeds UC and Cal State admission requirements. High expectations in a smaller school setting can help drive success for students at other schools as well.



# criminal justice index

*A history of troubled relations with police sets the stage for current efforts to mend a basic element of community.*



No comparison is shown with the national Index, which uses some different measures.

## The Criminal Justice Index Includes:

- Equality Before the Law
- Homicide & Arrest Rates
- Victims of Crime

**“If we have interventions which just eliminate the opportunity for young people to join gangs, without offering them economic opportunity as an alternative, those intervention policies are going to be less effective.”**

**Dr. Michael A. Stoll**  
UCLA

## Blacks in Law Enforcement

■ African Americans are 13.7% of sworn officers in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and 10.2% in the County Sheriff's Department. In leadership positions, Blacks are 14.8% of officers above sergeant rank in LAPD and 7.5% in the Sheriff's Department.

## Homicide

■ The homicide rate for Black males is 78 per 100,000 compared to 6.6 for Whites, 18.7 for Latinos and 5.5 for Asians. Female homicide rates are much lower for all groups.

## Racial Inequalities in Criminal Justice

An extensive review of police, court and incarceration data by Michael A. Stoll (UCLA) and Stephen Raphael (UC Berkeley) reveals systematic racial disparities in criminal justice. The complete study is in the *State of Black Los Angeles Full Report*.

■ “Driving While Black”: Black drivers are stopped by Los Angeles police at a rate of 19.8 compared to the national rate of 12.3, and L.A. rates of 10 to 13 for other groups.

■ Searches: Black and Latino drivers are searched by LAPD four times more often than Whites or Asians, yet only 38% of Blacks are found to have illegal items, compared to 55% of Whites, 65% of Latinos and 54% of Asians.



■ **Length of Sentences:** Sentences for Blacks average 46 months for violent crimes, compared to just 13 months for Whites and 35 months for Latinos. Black sentences for nonviolent crime are also higher than other groups.

■ **Incarceration:** About 13% of Black men age 18 to 40 in California are incarcerated, with rates up to 25% for school dropouts, a sharp increase since 1970.

■ **Post-Release Issues:** Ex-offenders are barred from many jobs and public housing, and many have limited education or job skills. With a projected increase in prison returnees, policies that support re-integration are urgently needed.

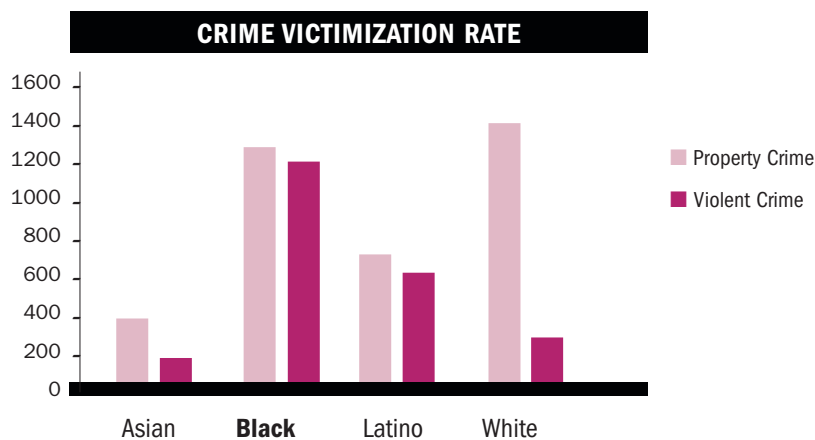
■ **Lifetime Probability of Prison Time:** 32% of Black males born in Los Angeles in 2001 are likely to go to prison during their lifetime, compared to 17% of Latino and 6% of White men.

### Adult Arrests

■ The L.A. County felony and misdemeanor arrest rate for Blacks is 5,600 per 100,000 population, compared to Latinos at 2,210 or Whites at 1,009.

### Juvenile Arrests

■ Juvenile felony arrest rates for Blacks, at 9,994 per 100,000, are nearly twice as high as Latinos at 5,079 or Whites at 3,339, with higher violent crime arrests for Blacks.



### Crime Victims

■ Blacks in the City of Los Angeles are twice as likely as other groups to be victims of violent crime. Whites and Blacks report the highest rates of property crime.

■ African Americans were the victims of 56% of L.A. County racially based hate crimes in 2003, although just 10% of the population.



### Making a Difference

In June 2004, television audiences watched as a Los Angeles police officer chased down suspect Stanley Miller and struck him 11 times with a large metal flashlight. Public outrage led the LAPD to adopt new policies that limit the use of flashlights as weapons, except in emergencies. Seen as a positive step by police officers and community groups, the new regulations require written explanations by officers and extensive review whenever a flashlight is used to subdue a suspect. The LAPD is also considering plans to equip officers with smaller flashlights.

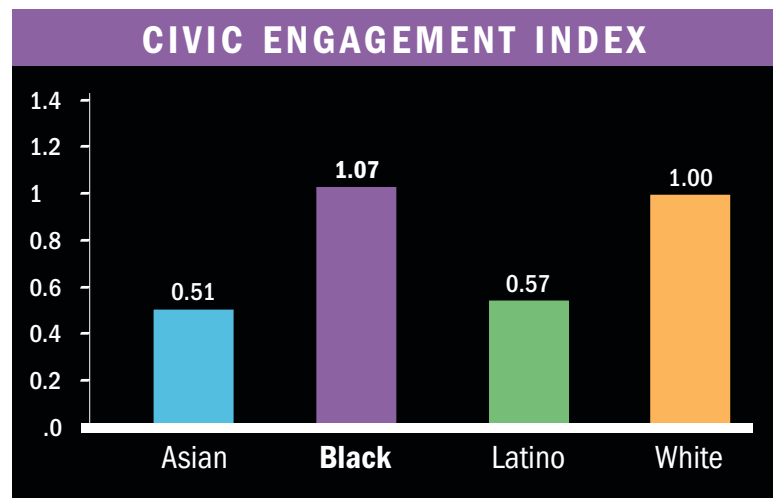


# civic engagement index

*The past half-century in the civil rights movement has put Los Angeles County Blacks among the most politically and community engaged of any ethnic group in the region.*

## The Civic Engagement Index Includes:

- Voter Participation
- Armed Services Participation
- Union Representation
- English Fluency



The national Civic Engagement Index score for Blacks is 1.08, highest of all Index values.

■ Nearly 70% of Blacks and Whites registered to vote, compared to about 30% of Asians and Latinos. However, of those registered, actual voter turnout was much closer among groups, at about 40% for Blacks, Asians and Latinos, and 50% for Whites.

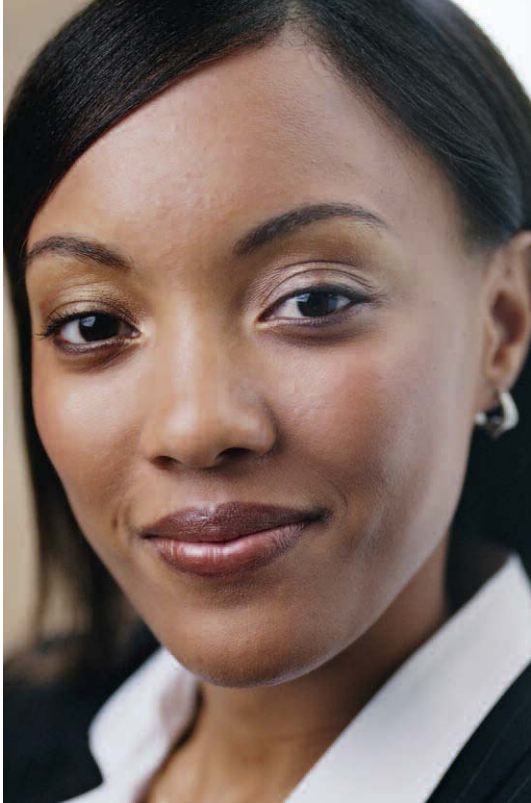
■ 97% of the Black population are U.S. citizens, including 94% who are U.S. born and 6% who are immigrants. In comparison, 94% of Whites, 69% of Asians and 64% of Latinos are citizens. Citizenship holds the key to full civic engagement through voting.

■ English is the native language of most Los Angeles County Blacks, with just 3% reporting that they speak a language other than English at home and don't speak English fluently. 44% of Asians, 48% of Latinos and 7% of Whites are not fluent in English, a barrier to participation in community life.

■ Blacks have the highest rate of residents in military service who are stationed in Los Angeles County, higher than Whites and about twice the rate for Asians and Latinos.

■ Blacks have the highest rate of union membership at 29% of the labor force, followed by U.S.-born Latinos at 20%, Whites at 19% and Asians at 13%.





**“Our destiny as Black people is inextricably tied to the destiny of the city. And the city’s destiny is tied to our destiny. These two are not, cannot be disconnected.”**

*Tavis Smiley*  
Tavis Smiley on PBS

\*The list of "most important" offices is based on the resources they control, the number of constituents served and their use as stepping stones to higher office. Los Angeles County has more than 2,000 elected offices.

Elected Officials

■ As of the November 2004 elections, 49% of the most important\* elected offices in Los Angeles County were held by racial minorities, up from just 3% in 1960. 14% of these elected officials were Black, 4% Asian, 31% Latino and 51% were White.

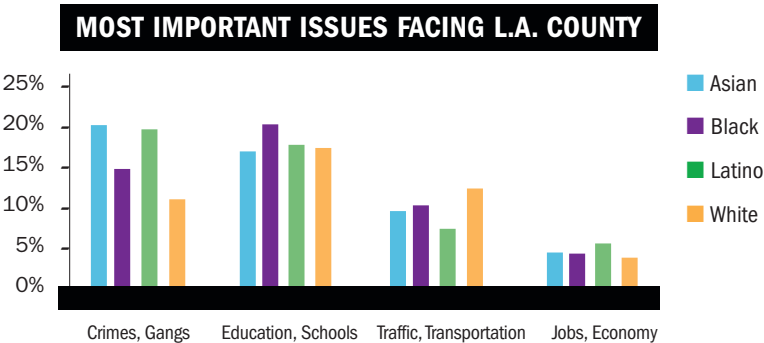
■ The ethnic composition of elected officials is similar to voters, rather than the entire population. In 2002, 13% of voters were Black, 7% Asian, 23% Latino and 58% White.

ETHNIC REPRESENTATION IN THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTED OFFICES								
	1960		1980		2000		2004	
Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	3.1%	4	4.1%
Black	1	1.3%	15	14.4%	12	12.5%	14	14.3%
Latino	1	1.3%	6	5.8%	27	28.1%	30	30.6%
White	75	97.4%	83	79.8%	54	56.3%	50	51.0%
Total	77	100.0%	104	100.0%	96	100.0%	98	100.0%

Source: Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University

Public Opinion Survey

A 2005 survey found similar opinions on major community issues, with education and transportation seen as priorities by all groups. However, there are large differences in opinions on race relations, police practices and conditions in poverty-area schools.



■ 25% of Blacks view race relations as good, compared to 34% of Latinos, 44% of Whites and 64% of Asians – and Blacks are least likely (49%) to foresee improvement.

■ Only 21% of Blacks think police treatment is fair all or most of the time, compared to 46% of Latinos and about 60% of Asians and Whites.

■ 89% of Blacks and about 75% of others groups believe that schools in low-income and minority neighborhoods need repair and replacement. More than 70% of Blacks and Latinos favor providing more funds for such schools, but just 56% of Asians and 46% of Whites agree if it means less funding for schools in other areas.

■ Blacks and Whites are more politically active than Asians or Latinos, including making contributions to political campaigns, working as volunteers or contacting elected officials.



# action agenda

FOR BLACK LOS ANGELES

**“The floor in L.A. keeps sinking. We are in danger of losing the middle class. Public institutions must deliver education and public safety in a way that doesn’t just save the floor, but creates upward mobility.”**

**Constance L. Rice**  
*English, Munger and Rice*

**T**he *State of Black Los Angeles* reveals critical disparities in the key areas of economics, housing, health, education, criminal justice and civic engagement. More importantly, it serves as a catalyst for solutions – for developing innovative ways to make a real difference in the lives of the individuals behind these statistics.

The Action Agenda combines the ideas and vision of many leaders throughout Los Angeles. It is the first step toward taking responsibility as a region for improving the quality of life of those in greatest need and for securing the very future of this great community. The truth is that the challenges faced by Blacks in Los Angeles ultimately face us all.

## Key Action Areas

**Job creation at a variety of skill levels**

**Family asset building in home ownership, business ownership and savings**

**Health education to reduce risk factors**

**Health care access**

**Holistic approach to community and individual health**

## Action Recommendations

### Economics:

- Promote development of "livable wage" jobs in the regional economy in growth industries such as construction, health, multimedia and security.
- Create a South Los Angeles Economic Development Council to promote economic growth.
- Support growth of businesses with \$2 million-plus in revenue to increase available jobs.
- Introduce financial literacy training in schools to assist youth in future asset building.
- Promote educational programs in prisons that build re-entry skills of inmates to reduce unemployment and support families upon their release.

### Health:

- Deliver culturally relevant health education through public schools, churches, businesses and the media to reduce risk factors for top causes of death of African Americans: heart disease, cancer, stroke, homicide, diabetes and HIV/AIDS.
- Develop community infrastructure – such as parks, green spaces, farmers’ markets and grocery stores – that assist African Americans in achieving healthier lifestyles and better nutritional options.
- Increase the number of African American health professionals to improve the quality of health care provided in the community.
- Develop affordable options for small businesses to provide quality health insurance to their employees.

## Key Action Areas

## Action Recommendations

### Affordable rental housing

### Access to home ownership

### Greater education attainment

### Improved quality of public education

### Curricula geared to 21st century workforce needs

### Prevent criminal involvement by youth

### Hold the criminal justice system accountable

#### Housing:

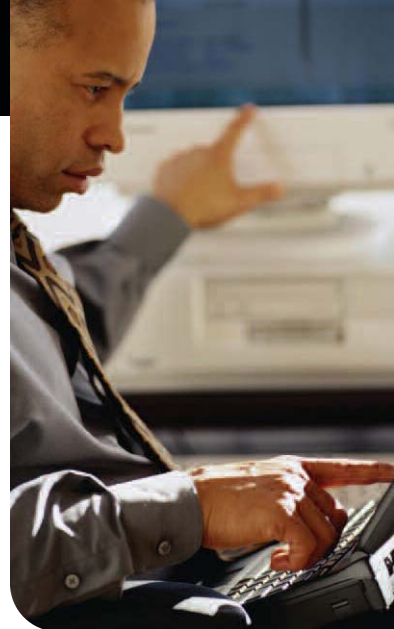
- Identify a pilot geographic focus area in Crenshaw Corridor and follow up on the 2004 Crenshaw Summit by engaging stakeholders to develop strategic economic/housing plans for Crenshaw Corridor.
- Advocate for inclusionary zoning: mixed-use development and mixed-income housing.
- Develop options such as new credit and housing stock products and innovative programs such as enabling public housing residents to buy their units.
- Assess feasibility of a Crenshaw Housing Trust Fund to direct financial investment toward creating and/or rehabilitating housing that fits the needs of families.

#### Education:

- Advocate for college preparation curriculum (A-G courses) for all students to develop 21st century skills as a foundation for academic and employment success.
- Support the concept of Small Learning Communities to provide personalized attention and opportunities for child and parent engagement, including special needs.
- Empower parents to access resources, understand child development and advocate for their children.
- Promote cultural competence in teachers and cultivate respect for diversity in all aspects of education.
- Bring community resources to bear on improving outcomes for youth growing up in foster care.
- Support efforts of the newly created Presidents' Joint Commission on Los Angeles Unified School District Governance to align the LAUSD governance structure to academic, life skill and workforce demands of the 21st century.

#### Criminal Justice:

- Increase the presence of Black male role models and mentors in programs for youth.
- Pilot holistic Juvenile Assessment Centers for first-time offenders with the L.A. Sheriff's Department.
- Advocate development of a Community Court system in Los Angeles County.
- Track judges' records on harsh sentencing and hold them accountable through elections.
- Expand involvement of churches with youth through Saturday Schools, after-school activities and clergy involvement with incarcerated youth.
- Monitor implementation of the LAPD Consent Decree.



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*Complete references are listed in the Full Report*

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California Department of Education  
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